

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

If by chance one amassed wealth, one did not go on working for the sheer pleasure of accumulating money, nor step out of one's accepted hierarchic rank. Climate was an additional factor in arresting work beyond one's needs, and those needs were few. But it has taken only the prospect of riches, the introduction of the element of fashion, the opportunity of making a display superior to one's neighbours, for the machine to play into the hands of that Annamite arch-vice—vanity. When parasols, the former symbol of rank, could be bought by anyone, everyone automatically became a mandarin. This was a windfall to French umbrella manufacturers, who foresaw⁷ the realization of that old dream of the colony as an expanding body of consumers. It looked as if the release of the Annamite soul from drudgery and abject servitude to nature had been replaced only by service to Annamite vanity. Happiness is no longer measured in terms of social virtues, yet in all this wave of crass materialism the Annamites have acquired a joy of living, a sense of well-being in this world which they have never before known. The rising cost of living and increase in taxation have gone far to counteract the benefits experienced, but a change in viewpoint has occurred beyond the tally of immediate debit and credit.

The new orientation of the Annamite mind has taken a dangerous turn. If the machine has made man like a god in giving him a sense of power the Annamite has not escaped the Olympian weakness of arrogance. Because he can control the machine—and the Annamites make excellent mechanics—he thinks himself the equal of its inventor. The scientific method, the years of persevering toil, the austere self-discipline and professional integrity involved in the creation of the

machine,, are unappreciated and overlooked by the fatuous Oriental. The machine to him is neither more nor less than a superior bit of magic which can be mastered like any secret formula. The vital difference WL outlook between East and West that made it possible only for the **latter** to experience the Industrial Revolution is ignored by the Anna-laStej wfeo does not see beyond immediate effects, nor the fact that he too can pull levers and press buttons. And this attitude is by no means confessed to **the** economic field.

The **machine** *m* **90** new to the colony that the labour problems it has are 'as yet embryonic. Ritual had long cast the Annamites into a, with a discipline, of regular habits. For centuries the Anna-performed certain rites at specified times which gave them a **routine** akin to thai of industry. Living intimately *m* large groups under arbitrary patomal authority requires ^questioning